

The Spark Gap

Newsletter of the
Mid-State Amateur Radio Club

Volume 19

JULY 2002

Number 7

146.835 Repeater Is alive and well !

Through the efforts of many club members the Johnson County Mid-State Amateur Radio Club repeater is on the air again with better coverage for the county. With the new 800 MHz Motorola trunked system put into use late last year the MARC club repeater lost its spot on the Johnson County Sheriff Department radio tower. The repeater had its antenna at a height of about 400 feet but after the move the antenna was at a height of 80 feet. As we all know this lessened the quality of signal and greatly reduced the distance of the repeater.

This past week club members has been working along with repeater trustee Matt, KB9UJE to put the repeater back together again, so to speak. The original antenna is now at a greater height and the signal has improved. Running at the present time only 3 watts, it is amazing how good the repeater is working. The amplifier has some problems and is currently being repaired. After repairs the club repeater will once again be one of the backbone repeaters in the central part of Indiana.

For all that have worked on this project, good job!!!!

..... Bob N9SIU

KB9BVN – BRIAN MURREY GUEST SPEAKER AT M.A.R.C.

One of Amateur Radio's purest forms of communication, QRP, will be demonstrated at the July 20th meeting. With a length of wire, some skill and very little power Brian Murrey-KB9BVN will tune in the world using a home brewed QRP transceiver. As this basic form of communication grows in popularity, hamfest forums on QRP quickly are becoming standing-room-only events. It only takes 5-watts. Join us Saturday, July 20th and grab a front row seat when Brian Murrey brings QRP to the Johnson county EOC. - W8ISH

FLAT ROCK RUN

Time to lace up your running shoes, grab an HT and head for the Flat Rock Run. Saturday August 10th the Mid-State ARC will provide communications for the Flat Rock five mile marathon. The race is an annual fund raiser for the Flat Rock volunteer fire department.

We need 20 hams with HT or mobile 2-meter radios. We plan to run APRS on the lead vehicle that paces the runners. The course heads east from the fire station, then south into Bartholomew county, back west and then north and east to the finish line. The entire event takes about two hours.

Each amateur volunteer is welcome to join us for the traditional pancake breakfast at 6:00 a.m. It's one of our annual opportunities for service.

A sign-up sheet will be available at the July club meeting. If you can help contact Jack Parker-W8ISH directly by calling 881-0817 or send an e-mail response to W8ISH@arrl.net.

Flat Rock is located on SR 252, 7 miles east of I-65 and the Edinburgh exit. From Greenwood it takes about 35 minutes to make the trip.

We hope to see you there.

Schedule of events

6:00 a.m. Breakfast & briefing at fire house on SR 252
6:45 a.m. Get assignments and drive to assigned position on course
7:00 a.m. First radio check with net control
7:15 a.m. Second radio check
7:30 a.m. Third radio check
7:45 a.m. Start of Race
Net control 146.55 simplex

Greenwood Marching Band Invitational

This coming September MARC will help once again with parking and safety at the Greenwood High School for this annual event. The band parent organization has always appreciated our help with this large event. As usual there will be a break room with lots of good things to eat and drink. So make plans now to help with this event. It will be the fourth Saturday in the afternoon. More details to follow next month.

SPARK GAP JULY 2002

M. A. R. C. at the Johnson County Fair



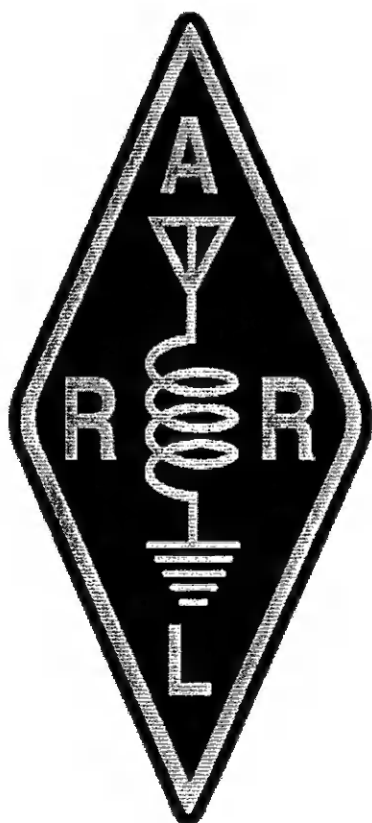
A station was set up at the Johnson County EMA tent display. Chuck, KB9TEO is shown in the picture. Many hams from the club helped at the booth through out the week. There was good response from the public with many people stopping by.

This was good exposure for our club to be at the fair and show the public amateur radio.

..... Bob N9SIU

Are you a member of ARRL?

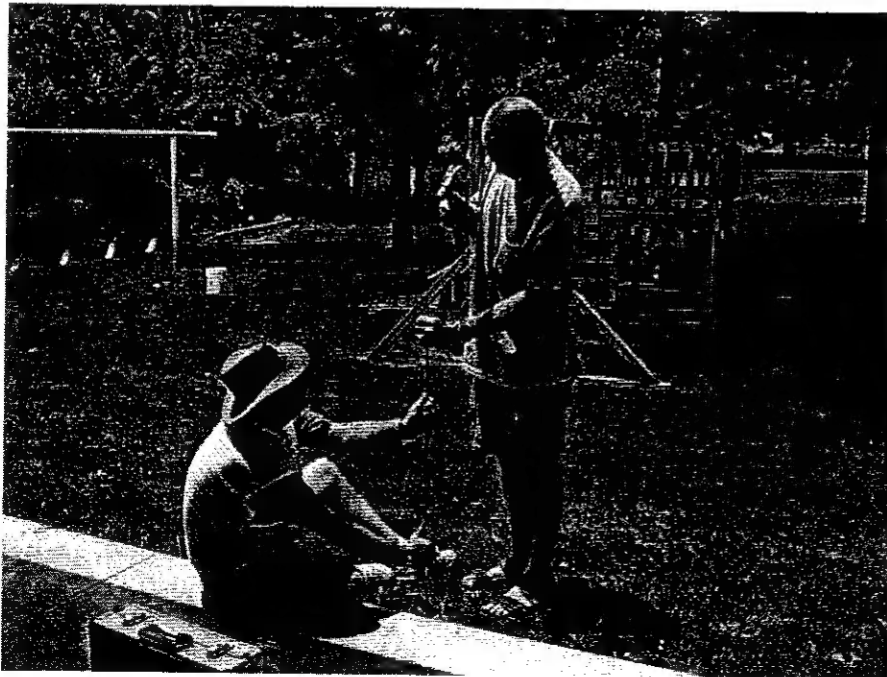
We are asking this question to find out how many ARRL members are members of Mid-State Amateur Radio Club. The reason for this is that being an ARRL member can save the club money. ARRL offers a group rate liability insurance for clubs that have at least 51% of its members that belong to ARRL. This information is needed since it is time for renewal of the clubs insurance policy. If you are a member of ARRL please let Jack Parker, W8ISH know as soon as you can. His e-mail address is w8ish@arrl.net or tell him at the next meeting.



It is good to see Matt, KB9UJE out and around again.

SPARK GAP JULY 2002

PICTURES FROM FIELD DAY:



SPARK GAP JULY 2002



SPARK GAP JULY 2002



Thank you Jerry for the pictures.

THE SPARK GAP

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SPARK GAP JULY 2002



The Mid-State Amateur Radio Club meets the third Saturday of each month at the Johnson County Law Enforcement Center, Emergency Operations Center training room.

MARC maintains the 146.835 – MHz (pl 151.4) repeater. Membership includes phone patch privileges. Dues are \$ 18.00 per year and are due January 1st of each year. New members may join at a pro-rated dues rate after the January 1st of each year.

JOHNSON CO. RACES sponsors a weekly communication net on the 146.835 repeater each Sunday evening at 7:00 PM EST. All amateurs are welcome to check-in, club membership or RACES membership is not required.

Club dues and/or membership applications should be mailed to:

Vernon Gill, N9QBO
MARC Treasurer
P.O. Box 836
Franklin, Indiana 46131

Please visit the MARC website at: [http:// www.midstatehams.org](http://www.midstatehams.org)

If you have any information or an article that you would like to see in the Spark Gap please send it to Bob LaGrange, N9SIU at n9siu@arrl.net . I would like to have all entries for the August issue no later than August 7th. If you have a certain radio model you would like to inform other amateurs about please send it to me or any other topic of your choice. This is the club newsletter and I would like to see as much input from club members and friends as possible.

..... 73, N9SIU